

REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-17 will remain pending in the present application.

In the instant amendment, claims 1-17 have been amended so as to further clarify the present invention based on the figures and the specification. Especially, claim 1 has been amended to further clarify features of the present invention (e.g., sliding feature), as explained below. The instant amendment made herein to the claims does not incorporate new matter into the application as originally filed.

Accordingly, proper consideration of each of the pending claims is respectfully requested at present, as is entry of the present amendment.

Claim Objection and 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to claims 1-17 because the reference numbers are contained in the claims. Further, claims 4, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention,

Applicants respectfully traverse and request that the Examiner withdraw the objection and the rejection based on the following explanations.

Amendments to Claims 1-17

In the current amendments to the claims, in order to overcome the objection and the 112, 2nd paragraph rejection, i) the reference numbers were deleted from the claims, ii) the phrase “or

like” in claim 4 was deleted, and iii) claim 15 was amended so as to depend from claim 14, which has a sufficient antecedent basis (i.e., “a tongue”).

Further, the following changes are made to the claims:

Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the U.S. claim format and so as to further clarify features of the present invention (e.g., sliding feature);

Claim 2-17 have been amended to employ the phrase “wherein” instead of the phrase “characterized in that”;

Claim 3, the term “comprises” was employed instead of the term “consists of”; and

Claim 15 was amended to depend from claim 14 for sufficient antecedent basis (i.e., “a tongue”).

Upon entry of the present amendment to the claims, the objection and the rejections have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection and the rejections based on the following explanations.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(a) and 103(a)

At pages 3-6 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4 and 7-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tump U.S. '256 (U.S. Patent No. 4,915,256).

Further, at pages 6-8 of the Office Action, claim 3 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tump U.S. '256 in view of Allison U.S. '638 (U.S. Patent No. 2,971,638). Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Tump U.S. '256 in view of Ruoss U.S. '489 (U.S. Patent No. 3,199,489).

Applicants respectfully traverse and request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections based on the following explanations.

Distinctions over the Cited References

As disclosed in claim 1, the specification and the figures (e.g., Figs. 1 and 2), one of the features of the claimed encapsulated blister package is that *"the inner part is disposed in the outer casing so that the inner part is slidably extractable at least partly from the opening of the outer casing."* (See lines 7-8 of claim 1). Namely, an inner part is accommodated in a flat outer casing so that the inner part is slidably extractable from the opening of the flat outer casing (the sliding feature).

On the other hand, packages disclosed in the cited references lack such a feature. More specifically, i) Tump U.S. '256's package opens upward like a clamshell (see Fig. 5 thereof); ii) in Allison U.S. '638, an inner part (including a disk) is not slidably extractable from the outer case (see Fig. 8 thereof); and iii) in Ruoss U.S. '489, an inner part cannot be extracted from an outer package because the outer case does not have an opening to allow the inner part to move outside even though the inner part is able to rotate within the outer case (see Fig. 1 thereof).

Therefore, none of the cited references provide for one skilled in the art any suggestion to reach the present invention having the sliding feature.

Combination of the Cited References

A *prima facie* case of obviousness is not established even if the cited references are combined since none of the cited references disclose or suggest the sliding feature. Likewise, it follows that a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by any of the teachings of the cited references and by the general knowledge to arrive at the present invention.

Accordingly, the present invention (independent claim 1 and dependent claims) is not obvious over the cited references.

CONCLUSION

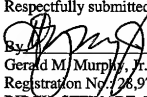
Based upon the amendments and remarks presented herein, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a Notice of Allowance clearly indicating that each of the pending claims are allowed.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Reg. No. L0053, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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